



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/075,283	02/15/2002	Makoto Iwayama		9044

24956 7590 12/24/2003

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
1800 DIAGONAL ROAD
SUITE 370
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

RONES, CHARLES

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2175

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/075,283

Applicant(s)

IWAYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Charles L. Rones

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

The amendment timely filed on January 7, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ma et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,347,313 ("Ma").

Ma discloses:

As to claim 10,

Making a weighted term list from documents resulting from a search of a first document database, the weight of each term reflecting the importance of the term in the first document database, the documents having a high relevance to a first search input

Art Unit: 2175

to said first document database, and the first search input being a set of keywords, fragments or a document or any desired set of documents; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43;

Performing a search of a second document database; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43;

wherein the search results from said first document database are used to derive a second search input for performing said search of said second document database, and is used as input to search another plural document databases; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43; .

wherein each term in the documents selected from the search of the second document database is weighted considering the importance of the term both in the first document database and the second document database, and the weight being used to calculate the relevance of the selected documents from the second document database; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43.

As to claim 11,

wherein an interface is provided in which a set of documents from the search result of said selected document database are selected or deselected, and a set of documents selected from the search result are used as an are used in performing the second search input to perform a search on said second document database; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43.

As to claim 12,

wherein a summary containing only topic words in the first search input is used to perform the second search; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43.

As to claim 13,

wherein a client transmits a set of documents in a search input to a server where said first document database is stored, receives a summary comprising only topic words related to the set of documents which is sent, sends a search input corresponding to said summary reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary to a server where said another document database is stored, and receives the second search result from a search of said second document database is stored, and receives a search result from the search of said document database; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43.

As to claim 14,

wherein summary containing only topic words in the search input is used to perform second search; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43.

As to claim 15,

wherein a client transmits a set of documents in the first search input to a server where said first document database is stored, receives a summary comprising only topic words related to the set of documents which is sent, sends the second search input corresponding to said summary reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary to a

server where said second document database is stored, and receives a search result from a search of said second document database is stored, and receives a search result from the search of said document database; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43.

As to claim 16,

wherein said server produces a summary from topic words relevant to the set of documents sent by the client and transmits it to the client, and searches and transmits a set of documents having a high relevance to any summary sent by the client, to the client; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43.

As to claim 17,

wherein said client has an interface for specifying a set of documents for the first search input and document databases to be searched, the set of documents in the search input is sent to a server specified by the user, a summary of the set of documents is received from this server, the summary received is sent to the server comprising said second document database, and search results are received from the search second document database and displayed; See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43.

As to claim 18,

Document databases and program to manipulate said databases are dispersed over a network and client connected to said servers performs document search, said service providing a document search method in which the client transmits a set of documents in a first search input to one of said servers where a first document.....; ;
See Abstract; 2:24-64; 3:1-54; 5:26-43.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2175

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles L. Rones whose telephone number is 703-306-3030. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3800.



Charles L. Rones
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2175

December 17, 2003